

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A text information generating apparatus, comprising:
 - attribute input section operatively connected to receive at least one artificial attribute associated with a paragraph;
 - discourse structure attribute generating section operatively connected to generate a discourse structure attribute related to a discourse structure that is associated with said paragraph and a paragraph length ratio attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters in said paragraphs to the number of characters of a matching pattern matched with said paragraph;
 - combination attribute generating section operatively connected to generate a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, and the paragraph length ratio attribute;
 - ~~text input interface operatively connected to receive text;~~
 - corpus database operatively connected to hold data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph;
 - importance degree estimating section operatively connected to estimate an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute using a data in the corpus database;
 - text input interface operatively connected to receive text;
 - important paragraph determining section operatively connected to determine an important paragraph having higher correlation with the text based on the estimated importance degree of each attribute from one or more paragraphs in the text; and
 - text output interface operatively connect to provide information of the text that is based on the determination of said important paragraph determining section.

2. (Currently Amended) A text information generating apparatus comprising:
- attribute input section operatively connected to receive at least one artificial attribute that is associated with a paragraph;
 - discourse structure attribute generating section operatively connected to generate a discourse structure attribute related to a discourse structure and associated with said paragraph and a paragraph length attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters of said paragraph to a number of characters of a matching pattern matched to said paragraph;
 - word attribute generating section operatively connected to generate word attribute related to word of said paragraph;
 - combination attribute generating section operatively connected to generate a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio attribute, and the word attribute;
 - ~~text input interface operatively connected to receive text;~~
 - corpus database operatively connected to hold data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph;
 - importance degree estimating section operatively connected to estimate an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute using a data in the corpus database;
 - text input interface operatively connected to receive text;
 - important paragraph determining section operatively connected to determine, based on the estimated importance degree of each attribute, an important paragraph having a higher correlation with the text from one or more paragraphs in the text; and
 - text output interface operatively connected to provide information of the text that is based on the determination of said important paragraph determining section.

3. (Currently Amended) A text information generating apparatus comprising:
attribute input section operatively connected to receive at least one artificial attribute that is associated with a paragraph;

discourse structure attribute generating section operatively connected to generate a discourse structure attribute related to a discourse structure that may be associated with said paragraph and a paragraph length ratio attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters in said paragraph to the number of characters of a matching pattern matched with said paragraph;

combination attribute generating section operatively connected to generate a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, and the paragraph length ratio attribute;

~~text input interface operatively connected to receive text;~~

corpus database operatively connected to hold data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph;

~~importance degree estimating section operatively connected to estimate an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute, and to determine at least one surplus attribute from at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute;~~

importance degree estimating section operatively connected to estimate an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio attribute, and the combination attribute using a data in the corpus database;

~~surplus attribute deleting section operatively connected to delete the determined surplus attribute, the paragraph length ratio attribute, and the combination attribute using a data in the corpus database~~

surplus attribute deleting section operatively connected to determine at least one surplus attribute that value of the correlation between said paragraph and the text changes less than threshold based on the test result using the corpus in the corpus database from at least tow of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio attribute, and the

combination attribute, and to delete the determined surplus attribute from the attributes utilized by said importance degree estimating section;

text input interface operatively connected to receive text;

important paragraph determining section operatively connected to determine, from one or more paragraphs, an important paragraph having higher correlation with contents of text based on the estimated importance degree of the attribute not determined to be a surplus attribute; and

text output interface operatively connected to provide information of the text based on the determination of said important paragraph determining section.

4. (Original) The text information generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein information of text outputted from said text output interface includes an abstract sentence based on the paragraph determined as the important paragraph.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An example gathering apparatus~~ An incident clustering apparatus comprising the text information generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an incident clustering section makes one set of text from a plurality of texts using text information provided by the text information generating apparatus above.

6. (Currently Amended) A question example extracting apparatus for generating frequent text comprising the incident clustering apparatus according to claim 5;

a sorting section operatively connected to sort a plurality of question based on the gathered text; and

~~a determining section operatively connected to estimate frequent text based on at least some of the sort plurality of questions.~~

a determining section operatively connected to estimate the text included frequent question using at least some of the sorted plurality of question.

7. (Original) A searching apparatus comprising the text information generating apparatus according to claim 1; and

a searching section operatively connected to search for predetermined contents in text based on the information of the text.

8. (Currently Amended) A text information generating method, comprising:
receiving at least one artificial attribute and is associated with a paragraph;
generating a discourse structure attribute related to a discourse structure that is associated with said paragraph and a paragraph length ratio attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters in said paragraph to the number of characters of a matching pattern matched with said paragraph;
generating a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, and the paragraph length ratio attribute;
receiving text;
estimating an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute using a data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph;
receiving text;
determining an important paragraph having higher correlation with the text based on the estimated importance degree of each attribute from one or more paragraphs in the text; and
providing information of the text that is based on the determining.
9. (Currently Amended) A text information generating method comprising:
receiving at least one artificial attribute that is associated with a paragraph;
generating a discourse structure attribute related to a discourse structure and associated with said paragraph and a paragraph length attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters of said paragraph to a number of characters of a matching pattern matched to said paragraph;
generating a word attribute related to words of said paragraph;
generating a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio attribute, and the word attribute;
~~receiving text;~~
estimating an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio attribute, the word attribute, and the combination

attribute using a data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph;

receiving text;

determining, based on the estimated importance degree of each attribute, an important paragraph having a higher correlation with the text from one or more paragraphs in the text; and
providing information of the text that is based on the determination of said important paragraph determining section.

10. (Currently Amended) A text information generating method comprising;

receiving at least one artificial attribute that is associated with a paragraph;

generating a discourse structure attribute related to a discourse structure that may be associated with said paragraph and a paragraph length ratio attribute related to a ratio of a number of characters in said paragraph to the number of characters of a matching pattern matched with said paragraph;

generating a combination attribute based on at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, and the paragraph length ratio attribute;

receiving text;

~~estimating an important degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute, and to determine at least one surplus attribute from at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute;~~

estimating an importance degree indicating an enhancement degree of correlation between said paragraph and the text based on at least one of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute using a data which is paragraph, position information in a text of each paragraph, and estimation of paragraph;

~~deleting the determined surplus attribute from the attributes utilized in the estimation;~~

determining at least one surplus attribute from at least two of the artificial attribute, the discourse structure attribute, the paragraph length ratio, and the combination attribute from the attributes utilized in the estimation, and deleting the determined surplus attribute;

receiving text;

determining, from one or more paragraphs, an important paragraph having higher correlation with contents of text based on the estimated importance degree of the attribute not determined to be a surplus attribute; and
providing information of the text based on the determining of said important paragraph.